



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/942,893
Applicant(s): Hironori SUMITOMO and Noriyuki OKISU
For: IMAGE TAKING APPARATUS
Confirmation No.: 9827
Customer No.: 24367
Docket No.: 15162/03910
Filed: August 30, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2615
Examiner: Yogesh K. Aggarwal

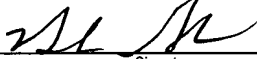
MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 794575892 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: DECEMBER 13, 2005 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
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DECEMBER 13, 2005 Date of Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following is a Preliminary Amendment, which is being submitted concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2005, which provides for a response period ending September 13, 2005.

A Petition for Extension of Time, to extend the response period for the Office Action, dated June 13, 2005, for three additional months to December 13, 2005, is being filed concurrently.

Application No. 09/942,893
Preliminary Amendment dated December 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2005

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: